

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the YEAR 1909.

To The Seaton Council.

Gentlemen,

I am glad to be able to present a favourable Annual Report for this District.

Births. During 1909 there were 24 births -- 12 boys and 12 girls -- a rate of 16.

Deaths. There were 22 deaths, including 3 Visitors -- a total death rate of 14.6. Deducting the visitors, the rate is 12.6 death-rate per thousand of the resident population, which I estimate at 1600.

Ages at death. One of the deaths was an infant, and another was a child just under 2 years -- four were between 17 and 40, nine between 50 and 70 and seven were over that age.

Cause of death. The deaths were chiefly from ordinary causes, but four may be specially mentioned. The infant died from Convulsions occurring a month after vaccination. There was one death from cancer, one from General Tuberculosis and one from Phthisis. Phthisis is happily very infrequent here, no case having been notified under the "Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations" which came into force on January 1st, 1909.

Notification. There has been no notification during the year under

the "Infectious Diseases Act."

Whooping Cough. We have had a somewhat severe epidemic of Whooping Cough which necessitated the closing of the Schools from the 10th November until Xmas. The outbreak has now considerably abated and the schools re-opened on the 10th January.

Influenza. There has also been a good deal of Influenza accompanied by sore throat in the last two months. This too has largely diminished. There has been no death from either of these diseases.

Sewage. The Sewage System continues to work well. A portion of the sewer from the Marsh to the Station Road has been relaid and is now as satisfactory as the present level permits. The additional length of pipe at the main outfall has not yet been added, as the state of the tides has never been such as to allow the work to be done. I have visited the site several times at low water, but have never been able to see the outlet, which has always been covered by shingle. I have not found the slightest nuisance there. I still think however, that it is desirable to add another length of pipe when it is possible to do so.

Scavenging. The scavenging of the District continues to be satisfactory; but I am sorry to find that very few householders have adopted my recommendation to use more suitable buckets or boxes for conveying the house refuse to the cart.

Water. We have now an ample supply of good water. The quantity passing through the meter works out at 60000 gallons a day, or 43 gallons per head per day of the resident population.

Rainfall.

The Rainfall for the year was 34.24 inches, -- some 4 inches above the average. It fell on 176 days.

dairies

I have inspected the dairies and cow sheds from time to time. The former are well appointed, and are kept scrupulously clean. Two of the cow sheds to which I called attention in a previous Report have been refloored and are much improved.

The bakehouses are quite satisfactory.

Factories and Workshops.

What I have reported in previous years, as required by the Factory and Workshop Act, I can now repeat. There are no Factories. The Workshops for men are airy and well ventilated. There are three work places for girls. In one 9, and in another 7 are engaged in dressmaking. In the third 13 girls mend lace. In all three places the conditions are satisfactory.

The general health has been, on the whole, good throughout the year. The death rate is below the average of the past ten years. There has been no case of any of the seven serious infectious diseases.

The Statistics prove that a good sanitary condition of the District is well maintained.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

H. A. Pattinson

Medical Officer of Health.

Seaton, 26th January, 1910.

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